

## Message Text

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63 S

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-10 /080 W

----- 039476

R 191601Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3285

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 24224

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, FR, US, US

SUBJECT: FRANCO-BRITISH VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 222166 (EXDIS-NOTAL)

1. WHEN EMBOFF MADE DEMARCHE SEPTEMBER 18 ON SECRETARY'S CINCINNATI SPEECH AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR THE ME SERVANT NOTED THAT U.S. THINKING CLOSELY PARALLELS THAT OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH. HE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING ANALYSIS (SUMMARIZED) DEVELOPED JOINTLY DURING THE SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN FOREIGN OFFICE AND QUAI MIDDLE EAST EXPERTS HELD THE PREVIOUS DAY IN PARIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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2. SINAI II WAS A VERY GOOD STEP FORWARD AND HIGHLY USEFUL. ALTHOUGH MANY MAY CRITICIZE THE AGREEMENT, WHAT WOULD THE SITUATION BE HAD THE SECRETARY'S NEGOTIATIONS FAILED? THERE WOULD BE INCREASED TENSION IN THE

AREA, ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE PALESTINIAN EXTREMISTS, AND THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE UN WOULD BE EXPLOSIVE. THE ACCORD THUS GIVES A BADLY NEEDED RESPITE.

3. HOWEVER, THE POSITIVE PHYSOCHOLOGICAL AFFECTS WILL LESSEN AND RAPIDLY DISSIPATE. THE MOMENTUM OF NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE MAINTAINED IF SADAT IS TO BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT SUCCESSFULLY AGAINST DOMESTIC AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, FOREIGN ARAB OPPOSITION TO HIS PEACE EFFORTS. HE NEEDS MOVEMENT LONG BEFORE THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

4. SINCE PROGRESS ON THE WEST BANK IS EXCLUDED FOR THE MOMENT, NEGOTIATIONS FOR A GOLAN WITHDRAWAL SHOULD BE VIGOROUSLY PURSUED. ONLY THE U.S. IS IN A POSITION TO FORCE THE ISSUE. DESPITE HIS CRITICISM OF THE LATEST ACCORD, ASSAD KNOWS HE CANNOT MAKE WAR ALONE AND DOES NOT EXCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE GOLAN. (SERVANT CITED ASSAD'S RECENT NEWSWEEK INTERVIEW WITH DE BORCHGRAVE AS EVIDENCE. ASSAD DID NOT REJECT DEMILITARIZATION OF PART OF THE GOLAN, DID NOT DEMAND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, AND SPEAKS OF A "LINE".) SYRIAN STATEMENTS THAT THEY WILL NOT RENEW THE UN MANDATE ARE DESIGNED TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE U.S., TO DEMONSTRATE SYRIAN TOUGHNESS AND TO ESCAPE OTHER ARAB, NOTABLY IRAQI, CRITICISM. (SERVANT INTERJECTED THAT IRAQ'S OPPOSITION TO A SETTLEMENT IS ALMOST ENTIRELY IDEOLOGICAL -- IN PRACTICE, IRAQ WOULD DO NOTHING.) SYRIA WOULD FACE GRAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES WERE IT TO REFUSE RENEWAL, BUT ASSAD BADLY NEEDS SOME MOVEMENT, HOWEVER MINIMAL, ON THE GOLAN IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO RENEW. THUS DAMASCUS IS THE KEY TO MAINTENANCE OF THE MOMENTUM OF NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT WHICH MODERATE ARAB LEADERS WILL BE UNABLE TO RESIST EXTREMISTS FOR MANY MONTHS.

5. FINALLY, SERVANT OBSERVED THAT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON MIGHT DETERIORATE TO THE POINT THAT ALL BETS ON CONFIDENTIAL

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DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA WOULD BE OFF.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT FRENCH OFFICIAL THINKING ON APPROPRIATE NEXT STEPS IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS CLOSER TO OUR OWN THAN AT ANY OTHER TIME SINCE THE 1967 WAR. THE MESSAGE THE QUAI WOULD CONVEY TO US TODAY IS TO MOVE QUICKLY -- TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.  
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLIANCE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, SPEECHES, PEACE PLANS, GOVERNMENT REACRTION, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**To:** STATE INFO CAIRO  
DAMASCUS  
TEL AVIV  
AMMAN  
BEIRUT  
JIDDA

BAGHDAD  
ALGIERS  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
ROME

**Type:** TE

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